

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to an Office Action mailed 04/04/2005, in which the Examiner said that claims 1-19 were pending, that claims 11-19 were allowed, that claims 1 and 10 were rejected, and that claims 2-9 were objected to. In this amendment, claims 2 and 6 are amended to overcome reasons for objections given by the Examiner, and various grounds for rejections are traversed below.

Claim Rejected under 35 USC §102

In the above-mentioned Office Action, the Examiner said that claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,513,840 to Fujita et al. The Examiner then said that Fujita et al. teaches various elements of claim 1, including a first document path (from roller 34a to 42a) having an internal end shown generally at 42a.

Regarding this statement, the Applicants respectfully submit that the "first document path" of claim 1 is limited by the requirement of the claim for a "second document path, extending from said internal end of said first document path, forming a loop to invert a check driven around said second document path in a preferred direction." When this additional requirement is applied to the apparatus of Fujita et al., it is apparent that the first document path of Fujita et al. must extend between rollers 42a and 38a, with the internal end of the first path being at roller 38a. This point, at roller 32a is the point from which a second document path extends, as required by claim 1, to form a loop to invert a check, or other document, driven around the second document path.

However, the print head of Fujita et al. comprises the printing unit 14, which is disposed adjacent a side of the loop within the second document path. Therefore, Fujita et al. fails to anticipate or teach the requirement of claim 1 that the print head must be disposed adjacent a first side of the first document path.

For this reason, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable under 35 USC §102(b) as not being anticipated by Fujita et al.

Claims Rejected under 35 USC §103

5 The Examiner also said that claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 25 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,474,387 to Shimao in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,513,840 to Fujita et al. The Examiner then said that, as shown in FIG. 1, Shimao teaches various elements of claim 1, including a first document path (from rollers 44 and 45 to rollers 17 and 18) including an internal end shown
10 generally at rollers 17, 18.

Regarding this statement, the Applicants respectfully submit that the “first document path” of claim 1 is limited by the requirement of the claim for a “second document path, extending from said internal end of said first document path,
15 forming a loop to invert a check driven around said second document path in a preferred direction.” When this additional requirement is applied to the apparatus of Shimao, it is apparent that the first document path of Shimao must extend from rollers 17 and 18 to rollers 14 and 15, with the internal end of the first path being at rollers 14 and 15. This point, at rollers 14 and 15 is the point from which a
20 second document path extends, as required by claim 1, to form a loop to invert a check, or other document, driven around the second document path.

However, the print head of Shimao comprises the exposure drum 46, which, together with a roller 47 transcribes an image formed on a surface of the drum to
25 the upper surface of the sheet 3, as described in column 3, lines 42-50. This exposure drum 46, is disposed adjacent a side of the loop within the second document path. Therefore, Shimao fails to anticipate or teach the requirement of claim 1 that the print head must be disposed adjacent a first side of the first document path. Adding the disclosure of Fujitsu et al. to that of Shimao does not
30 correct this deficiency in describing the elements of claim 1, since Fujitsu et al. also fails to teach this requirement of the claim, as explained in detail above in

regard to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC §102(b). For all these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over Shimao in view of Fujitsu et al.

5 Regarding claim 10, the Applicants respectfully submit that, since, as described above, the internal end of the first document path of Shimao must be at the rollers 14 and 15, while the internal end of the first document path of Fujitsu et al. must be at the roller 38a, neither Shimao nor Fujitsu et al., taken separately or in combination, teach or otherwise anticipate the requirement of this claim for the
10 printer to include a document rray extending from the internal end of the first document path. Therefore, and additionally because claim 10 merely adds this limitation to claim 1, which is believed to be so patentable as described above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 is patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over Shimao in view of Fujitsu et al.

15 **Claims to which Objections Were Made**

The Examiner said that claims 2-9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any
20 intervening claims.

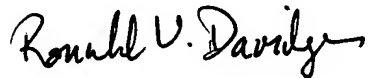
In this amendment, claim 2 is rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 1. Because claims 3-5 depend upon claim 2, it is understood that these claims are allowable without further modification. Also, claim 6 is
25 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 1. Since claims 7-9 depend upon claim 6, it is understood that these claims are allowable without further modification.

Conclusions

The Applicants respectfully submit that the application, including claims 1-19 is now in condition for allowance, and that action is earnestly requested, along with reconsideration and withdrawal of all reasons given for objections and rejections.

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Respectfully submitted



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